

HOUSE BILL 1669

By Tindell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33,  
Chapter 6, relative to mental health crisis services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-6-105, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding the following as subsection (b):

(b) In the interest of public safety, the department of mental health and developmental disabilities shall ensure that services are available to all citizens, whether insured or uninsured, who need crisis care by doing the following:

(1) The department shall maintain a toll free telephone number for twenty-four (24) hour access, seven (7) days a week to mental health crisis services by the general population. The crisis telephone line shall be linked to an appropriate crisis service provider staffed by qualified crisis service personnel in order to provide crisis triage and intervention;

(2) The department shall ensure that crisis services include telephone and walk-in triage screening, telephone and mobile or walk-in face to face crisis assessment, intervention and follow-up; and

(3) The department shall ensure that crisis services include access to crisis respite and crisis stabilization units.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.